

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 NSA-01 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01

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DRAFTED BY ACDA/IR/REG:DAENGEL, PM/DCA:CFLOWERREE

APPROVED BY ACDA/IR:DLINEBAUGH

PM/DCA:VBAKER

C:WSHINN

EUR/RPM:GCHRISTIANSON (SUBSTANCE)

DOD/ISA:LMICHAEL

JCS:WWOOD

NSC:MHIGGINS

ACDA/IR:TJHIRSCHFELD

S/S - MR. LUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T STATE 238217

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: BELGIAN APPROACH ON COMMON CEILING

REF: NATO 5912

1. WE CONCUR WITH LINE MISSION OFFICER TOOK WITH BURNY ON

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THIS SUBJECT, AS REPORTED PARA 3 REFTEL.

2. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER BELGIAN APPROACHES OR ALLIED QUERIES ON THIS MATTER, WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO POINT OUT THAT A DIRECT APPROACH TO THE PACT AT THIS POINT IN THE INFORMAL SESSIONS ON THE COMMON CEILING IS TACTICALLY UNWISE, SINCE IT IS BOUND TO INSPIRE A FLAT REJECTION. THIS COULD IN FACT BE MORE DAMAGING THAN USEFUL TO PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FOR OUR MBFR OBJECTIVES, SINCE DIRECT ESPOUSAL OF COMMON CEILING FOLLOWED BY LIKELY EASTERN REJECTION COULD INSPIRE DOUBTS ABOUT NATO'S ABILITY TO ACHIEVE ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, ALLIES CAN USE PLENARY SESSIONS AS APPROPRIATE TO KEEP CONCEPT BEFORE EAST.

3. RECENT NAC APPROVAL OF GUIDANCE TO THE AD HOC GROUP ON FORCE RE-DEFINITION AND, WE HOPE, FORTHCOMING APPROVAL OF GUIDANCE ON AIR MANPOWER WILL FURNISH AHG WITH APPROPRIATE MEANS OF PROBING THE PACT ON COMMON CEILING.

4. ON OCTOBER 24, BELGIAN MINISTER CAHEN CALLED ON POLITICAL MILITARY AFFAIRS DIRECTOR VEST ON INSTRUCTIONS TO RAISE THIS MATTER. BEGIN FYI. CAHEN SAID HE STRONGLY SUSPECTED THAT THE THINKING BEHIND HIS INSTRUCTIONS REPRESENTED THE VIEWS OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DAVIGNON. END FYI. VEST SAID WE APPRECIATED BELGIANS' GIVING US THEIR THOUGHTS OM MBFR AND SAID WE WOULD GIVE BELGIAN ANALYSIS CAREFUL ATTENTION. SIMILARITIES IN BELGIAN PROPOSAL WITH THRUST OF CURRENT US VIEWS ON NEED-ED MBFR STUDIES (E.G., AIR MANPOWER) WERE POINTED OUT TO CAHEN, AS WERE OUR VIEWS ON INDIRECT APPROACH TO COMMON CEILING CONCEPT THROUGH PROBE ON AIR MANPOWER ISSUES. INGERSOLL

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